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Too Much Paper Work

From "Foreign Affairs and You!" by Andrew Bunting (Doubleday, \$4.50).

Some of our Ambassadors seem to regard their primary duty to be that of a reporter . . . I do not mean to downgrade the necessity of adequate reporting to the State Department. Having been, however, on the receiving end of tons of it in the Department I cannot but feel that there is far too much of it. Add to this steady torrent the streams from CIA and our economic and military missions, and the military, air, and naval attachés, and the Johnstown flood is re-enacted in paper. No wonder the State Department communications system sends and receives an average of 500,000 words per working day! They spend as much time reading it they have little time to digest it, and still less to act upon it.